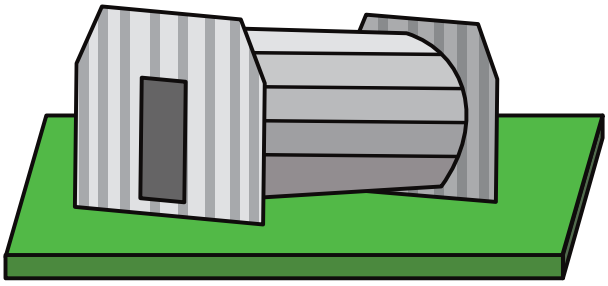
Anderson Shelter Craft

OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Follow the instructions to make your own Anderson shelter.

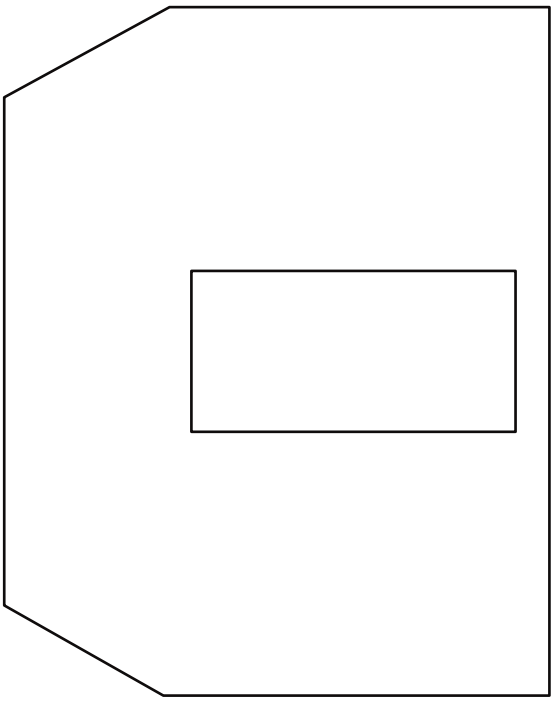
1. First, print your pieces onto card.
2. Second, fold the middle section of your Anderson shelter along the lines.
3. Next, bend the middle section to create a curved shape. Stick the rectangular bottom pieces together and stick and fold the tabs inwards.
4. After that, take your front and back pieces and glue them to each side.
5. Finally, decorate your Anderson shelter. You could paint it or add tinfoil to give it a metallic finish. Blend it into its surroundings by adding grass or moss.

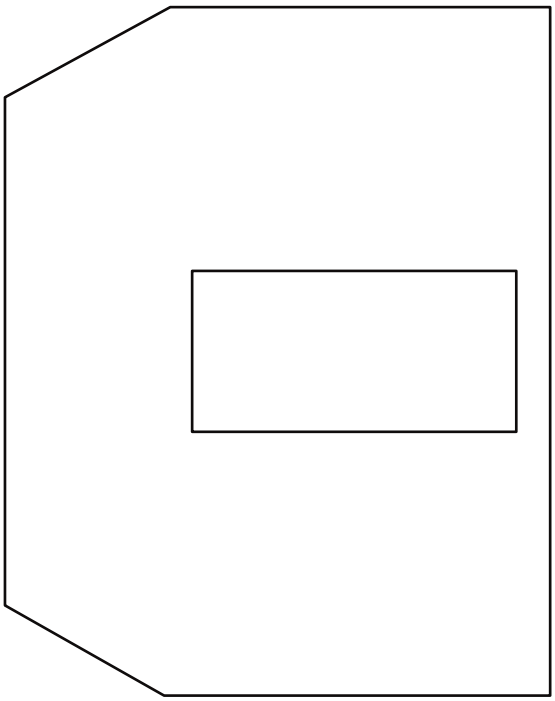




Front and back of Anderson Shelter craft

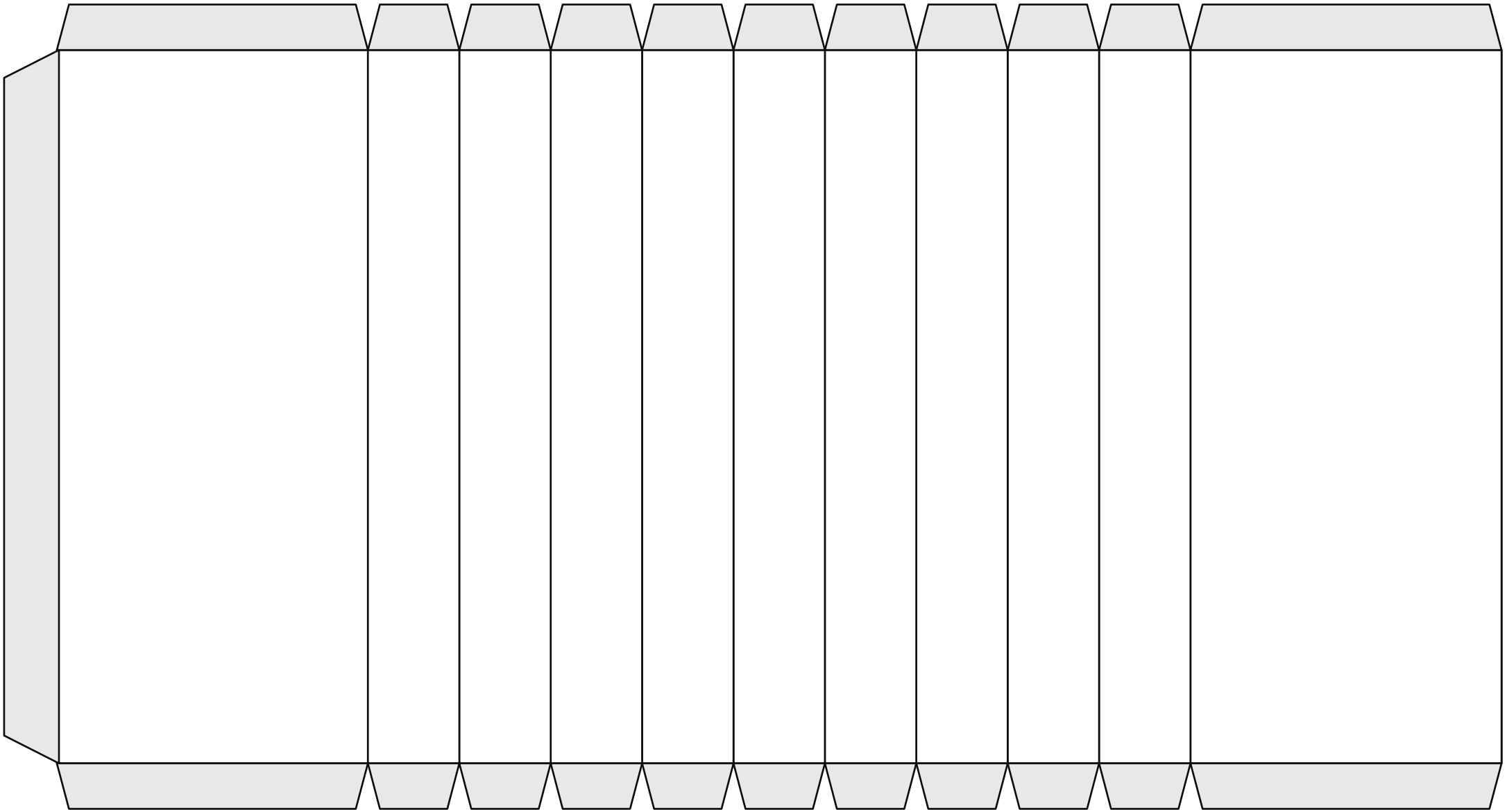






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Body of Anderson Shelter craft



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Character Study
Stanley Hooper

OPERATION DOODLEBUG

While reading ***Operation Doodlebug*** **by Tia Fisher**, gather information about the main character, Stan. You should add to each category as the story develops, and you learn more about him.



What do you know about Stan?

How does Stan's relationship with his father influence him?

How does Stan's friendship with Billy affect him?

What important choices does Stan make throughout the story?

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Courage Tracker

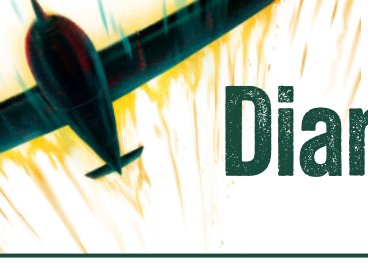


OPERATION DOODLEBUG

While reading *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher, identify moments when characters show courage.

Character	What challenge or danger did the character face?	How might they have been feeling?	What did they do?	What does this teach us about courage?
Stan				
George (Stan's Dad)				
Billy				
Nellie				
Arthur				

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Diary Entry



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

After reading ***Operation Doodlebug*** **by Tia Fisher**, write a diary entry from the perspective of Billy.

Write a diary entry about your day exploring the bombsite with Stan.

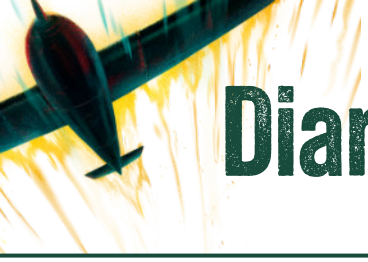
You could include:

- Why you wanted to search the bombsite.
- What you hoped to find amongst the rubble.
- Your thoughts about Knock-Off Granville and his house.
- What happened while you were digging.
- Your first impressions of the mysterious canister.
- What you think Stan should do with it.
- Any predictions about what might happen next.

Remember to write in the first person as Billy and think carefully about how his adventurous, confident and sometimes mischievous personality would influence what he writes.

Dear Diary,

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Diary Entry



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

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Discussion Questions: Extract 1



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Extract taken from Chapter 1 of *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher

'Stan,' he says. 'Stan, we been through this a hundred times. All this talk about a '*big push*', about us driving Jerry outta France –'

'But bakers are still reserved though, ain't they? No one says *you* gotta fight!'

'No . . .' he says slowly. 'They don't.'

'Then, *why*?'

'Because . . .' Dad straightens up and grabs his lapels.

Not now, Dad, please, please, I'm begging him with my eyes, but he rocks back on his heels. 'This is . . .' he growls, 'no time for ease and comfort! It is time to *dare* and *endure*!'

I look away. I know he's trying to cheer me up with his Churchill impression, but nothing's funny right now. 'Ain't we *endured* enough without you going off?'

Dad puts his hand on my shoulder, his face so near I can smell his pipe. 'Listen, son, I know the prime minister ain't saying bakers *have* to, but I'm going all the same. I done my bit at home, and now I gotta do my bit in the army. I owe it to all 'em who –' He shuts up quick.

All them who didn't come back, he means.

He straightens up. 'Well, I can't just stand round and not do my bit. I gotta help. Britain needs *soldiers*, not bakers. Loaves and cakes ain't gonna win the war, are they? Although, thinking about it . . .' He drops me wink that scrunches half his face. 'Your mum's biscuits would make good ammo, wouldn't they? Eh? *Eh?*'

He tries to nudge a smile out of me with his elbow, but nothing's funny today.

I *need* him. What if there's another Blitz? I can't stand being stuck down in the shelters – I need him there to keep me calm, stop the panic bursting out my chest.

We're standing outside the baker's shop where Dad works – *worked*, I should say. In the window there's a big wedding cake that's been there for blooming months. It looks all proper and fancy, with twiddly bits of white icing and all, but I know my dad made it from cardboard and plaster of Paris. Four and a half years into the war, there ain't enough eggs or sugar in the whole of Croydon for that cake. It's fake.

Dad sees me looking and gives a great old grin, like we got nothing to worry about. 'Cheer up, son! I'll be back baking before you know it.' He slings his kitbag over his shoulder and turns for the station again. 'C'mon now, son, or I'll miss my train.'

East Croydon Station's busy as an anthill. Schoolchildren and workers are charging off in all directions, porters criss-crossing the concourse pushing trolleys piled so high they're tottering. Groups of troops stand guarding their bags like they're precious eggs. The station smells of sweat and steam and coal and cigarette smoke.

Under the high roof, sounds boom and echo like in a church. Against all the chatter and chuffing and laughter, a newspaper seller is yelling the headlines:

'*READ ALL ABAAAAAHT IT! MISSIN' CROYDON SOLDIER BACK FROM THE DEEEEAD!*'

Dad backtracks, hands the man a coin and picks up a copy of the *Croydon Times*.

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Discussion Questions: Extract 1



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Stan's dad say he is volunteering for the army and what does that tell us about the kind of person he is?
2. This must have been a difficult decision for George. What reasons do you think he would have for and against joining up?
3. Why do you think George does an imitation of Winston Churchill and compares Mum's biscuits to ammo?
4. How does Stan feel about his father? Where in the text is this revealed?
5. How does the author show that Stan is frightened about his father leaving, even when he does not say it directly?
6. Why do you think the author includes the detail about the fake wedding cake just before describing George's smile? What does it tell us about life during the war?
7. George tells Stan, "I'll be back baking before you know it." Do you think George believes this?
8. This extract explores ideas of 'duty', 'family' and 'sacrifice'. Can you use those words in one sentence to describe George's choice to join the army?

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Discussion Questions: Extract 2

OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Extract taken from Chapter 8 of *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher

8
Air Raid

It's July already, and Maisie Halfshell's had *three* letters off her dad, but Mum and me are still waiting to hear if mine ever got that beer. There's been nothing at all after that flood of letters on the doormat. Not a peep. Shouldn't we have heard by now?

Mum and me keep on writing to him every day, cramming as many words as we can on them blue airmail forms they call 'blueys'. Blueys are thinner than school lav paper and you don't need a stamp or an envelope: you just fold 'em up and lick the edges. But the glue tastes disgusting and ever since Billy told me it was made from horses' hooves, I think about Carter every time.

One hot Saturday, we've just sat down to dinner when another air raid starts. That's five this week, all false alarms.

WoooooOOO WOOOOooooooooooooooooo!

Mum shouts, '*RUN!*' and we go like the clappers to the shelter, gas masks bumping against our legs.

Mrs O's already at the top of the steps, yelling 'Get a move on!' as we scurry down the garden path. I grab our coal shovel on the way, like I always do.

We squash up against the corrugated metal walls, tight as sardines in a can. Mrs O takes up most of the bench, squeezing Nellie tight against her side. Beside Nellie, Mabel-Doll takes up another few precious inches. Mum's lying on the bunk bed opposite. I'm up in the hammock Dad slung up for me by the entrance, my face pressed against the layers of sackcloth we're using for a door. The shovel's in my hammock so I can dig us out if the worst happens.

The Anderson's half buried under the earth and it's damp and cold as a tomb in the winter. Even now it's chilly: the walls feel clammy as frog skin.

The siren stops. It leaves an echo in my head like a sun spot, and Mum's still got her hands pressed to her temples like she's keeping her brains inside. Since the Blitz, every siren brings on one of her headaches.

Mrs O puts her hand on top of Mum's and gives it a squeeze. 'We've got Hitler all of a doo-daa! Don't worry, Kitty, I'd say it's another false alarm. Anyway, we'll be safe in here.'

Not if a house comes crashing down on top of us, we won't, I think, but I keep my lips pressed tight shut.

For a distraction, I reach for the biscuit tin. Nellie's mam's biscuits taste of real sugar, not carrot like Mum's. I reckon my mum's the only one in our street who don't visit Knock-Off Granville for luxuries sometimes, but she says buying stuff on the black market is *unpatriotic* as well as illegal, and people should be ashamed. It don't stop her helping herself to Mrs O's gingernuts though.

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Discussion Questions: Extract 2



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Stan and his mother are worried that they have not heard from George for a while?
2. What does the detail about Stan thinking of Carter every time he licks a bluey tell us about Stan's character?
3. How does the author create a sense of urgency when the air raid siren sounds?
4. Why does Stan always take the coal shovel into the shelter with him?
5. What does the description of the Anderson shelter reveal about what it was like to live through air raids during the war?
6. What image does the author use to describe the shelter? How effective do you think this is?
7. How can we tell that Stan and Kitty are still affected by previous bombing raids?
8. In what ways does Mrs O'Dorrigan try to provide comfort and reassurance?
9. What does this extract teach us about the different ways people coped with fear and uncertainty during the Second World War?

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Discussion Questions: Extract 3



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Extract taken from Chapter 42 of *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher

I fold it up, as carefully as if I was wrapping the crown jewels. My hands are shaking. I can hear Dad's voice in the station when I saw him for the last time. I can almost smell him, feel his rough uniform under my cheek.

What was it he said?

I'm coming home, I promise.

But sometimes it ain't possible to keep your promises, however much you want to. I know that now.

From round the corner of the house, Humbug comes panting and thrusts his muzzle into my face. He whines and paws my arm, licks the tears from my cheeks. I put my arms round him. 'You'd've liked my dad,' I whisper into Humbug's warm fur. 'He was the bravest person in the world.'

A long while later, there's the sound of the kitchen door opening and a looping two-note whistle. Humbug wriggles free and bounds over to Billy and Nellie as they stroll over to my cherry tree.

'Gotcher!' says Nellie, chucking herself on the grass. 'We wondered where you was. You been gone ages! Mrs P baked a batch of rock buns and there's only one left.'

Billy pokes me and says, 'What's up with you, then, misery guts? Arthur's home at last – everyone's happy – we got cake . . . and here you are, out here on yer own with a face like a squeezed lemon.'

Nellie peers at my face. 'Don't tease him, Billy!' she says. 'He's been cryin'. Wassup, Stan?'

Billy picks Dad's letter up off the grass. 'What's this?'

I take it from him and button it tight in my top pocket. 'It's a letter my dad wrote me. On the morning he died. The last letter. Arthur had it.'

Nellie gasps. 'Oh, *Stan*!'

'And there's something else . . .'

I'm not sure I should say it, but the choice Dad made is still pulling me apart. 'If I tell you, d'you promise not to talk about it to *anyone* else? I don't want Mum to find out cos I know she wouldn't want to know. Swear it. Cross-yer-heart-and-hope-to-die, stick-a-needle-in-yer-eye?'

'Yes, yes, we swear!' says Billy. 'What is it?'

Nelly's eyes search my face. 'What is it, Stan?'

'I know how Dad died.'

They're quiet as statues while they listen. After a bit, Nellie takes my hand in her small sticky one. Billy don't hold the other – he's not gone daft – but when my hanky is so wet it's see-through, he gives me his own grubby rag.

Humbug leans against me, ribs moving as he pants in the heat.

When I've told 'em, I blow my nose. 'But . . . what I can't stand is, he didn't have to die. He didn't even *have* to go and fight. Why'd he do that? Didn't he love me and Mum?'

There's a silence.

Billy pulls a bit of grass and traps it tight between his thumbs. 'I reckon . . .' He blows and a high whistle makes Humbug jump. 'I reckon yer dad's a *hero*. He should get a medal for bravery.'

I look at Dad's letter in my lap. *When you try and do something that scares you . . . that's the bravest thing of all.*

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Discussion Questions: Extract 3



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Discussion Questions:

1. Why has the author used the image of 'the crown jewels' to describe Dad's letter?
2. What does Stan learn about making and keeping promises?
3. Why does Stan ask Billy and Nellie to keep what he is about to tell them a secret?
4. How do we know Billy and Nellie are sympathetic towards Stan when he tells them how his dad died? What does this tell us about their friendship?
5. Why is George's bravery in saving Arthur so hard for Stan to accept?
6. Do you agree with Billy that George should receive a medal for bravery? Explain your opinion.
7. How does a sacrifice like George's affect the people left behind? Do you think that sacrifice could ever be considered a selfish act?
8. What does the final line, 'When you try and do something that scares you . . . that's the bravest thing of all,' teach us? How could you apply this to your own life?
9. What messages do you think the author wants readers to take from this scene? Can you list them in what you think is the order of their importance?

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Reading Detective



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

While reading *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher, search the text for evidence to answer the following questions:

What happened to Stan's dad, George, after D-Day?

What clues suggest George might still be alive?

What clues suggest George might not return?

Which clues do you think the author wants the reader to believe, and why?

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Reading Detective



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

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Setting Description



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

After reading *Chapter 8 - Air Raid* from *Operation Doodlebug* by Tia Fisher, write a setting description of the tense moment when Stan, his mother, Mrs O'Dorrigan and Nellie shelter from a doodlebug attack inside their Anderson shelter.

Imagine you are inside the shelter too. Focus on creating a suspenseful atmosphere that makes the reader feel as though they are there with the characters.

Key Features of a Setting Description

To produce an effective setting description, think carefully about:

The five senses: Rather than simply stating what a place looks like, describe what can be seen, heard, smelt, touched and even tasted.

Character interaction: Show how the characters respond to their surroundings. Think about their movements, reactions and physical signs of fear or panic.

You could describe:

- The cramped conditions inside the shelter.
- The walls, the darkness and the cold.
- The sounds of the doodlebug overhead.
- The silence after the engine cuts out.
- What you can see, hear, smell, touch and taste.
- What the characters might be thinking and feeling.
- How the surroundings help to create tension and suspense.

Try to use powerful vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, similes, metaphors and personification to bring the setting to life. Think carefully about how the setting reflects the fear and uncertainty experienced by the characters.

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Setting Description



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Vocabulary Investigation



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Throughout *Operation Doodlebug*, Tia Fisher uses vocabulary that helps readers understand what life was like during World War 2. While reading the story, look out for the words below and complete the table as you come across them. You may need to research the definition.

Word	Example of it being used in the text	Definition
rationing		
evacuation		
doodlebug		
telegram		
black market		
embarkation		
prisoner of war		
shrapnel		

Add any other interesting words that you discover.

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Wartime Artefacts

OPERATION DOODLEBUG

While reading ***Operation Doodlebug*** **by Tia Fisher**, create museum labels for important objects from the book. Imagine you are working in a wartime museum and that they are the artefacts.

You could create a label for George's watch, a gas mask, a bluey letter, the VI POW Post, a ration book or a telegram.

Example: George's Watch

Description: A gold wristwatch belonging to Stan's dad, George. It is engraved with the names 'George and Kitty Hooper' and the date of their wedding. It has a luminous (glow-in-the-dark) dial.

Purpose: The watch was originally used by George to tell the time. Before leaving to join the army, he gives it to Stan to look after.

Importance to the story: The watch is a precious reminder of Stan's dad while he is away fighting. It represents Stan's love for his father and his hope that George will return home. As the story progresses, it becomes an important connection between Stan and his dad.



Description: _____

_____

_____

Purpose: _____

_____

Importance to the story: _____

_____

_____

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Wartime Artefacts



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Description: _____

_____

_____

Purpose: _____

_____

Importance to the story: _____

_____

_____

Description: _____

_____

_____

Purpose: _____

_____

Importance to the story: _____

_____

_____

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Wordsearch



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

Cross out each word as you find it.

K	E	M	K	U	D	O	R	P	R	E	S	U
V	I	X	A	J	R	S	L	U	A	B	T	T
G	R	A	E	R	E	E	H	N	B	R	A	C
U	F	B	T	T	G	T	D	M	G	G	N	D
B	Q	I	I	E	R	E	A	E	B	E	H	P
E	U	E	P	A	R	E	L	H	I	O	B	C
L	A	S	W	S	P	Z	H	E	U	R	B	O
D	W	I	O	U	J	A	C	I	T	G	I	U
O	A	N	D	O	O	A	T	L	N	E	L	R
O	W	B	L	U	E	Y	A	L	E	A	L	A
D	T	P	E	U	I	S	W	E	V	Y	Y	G
L	E	N	P	A	R	H	S	N	I	E	Y	E

ANDERSON
ARTHUR
BILLY
BLUEY
COURAGE
DOODLEBUG
GEORGE
NELLIE
SHRAPNEL
STAN
TELEGRAM
WATCH

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Wordsearch Answers



OPERATION DOODLEBUG

K	E	M	K	U	D	O	R	P	R	E	S	U
V	I	X	A	J	R	S	L	U	A	B	T	T
G	R	A	E	R	E	E	H	N	B	R	A	C
U	F	B	T	T	G	T	D	M	G	G	N	D
B	Q	I	I	E	R	E	A	E	B	E	H	P
E	U	E	P	A	R	E	L	H	I	O	B	C
L	A	S	W	S	P	Z	H	E	U	R	B	O
D	W	I	O	U	J	A	C	I	T	G	I	U
O	A	N	D	O	O	A	T	L	N	E	L	R
O	W	B	L	U	E	Y	A	L	E	A	L	A
D	T	P	E	U	I	S	W	E	V	Y	Y	G
L	E	N	P	A	R	H	S	N	I	E	Y	E

ANDERSON
ARTHUR
BILLY
BLUEY
COURAGE
DOODLEBUG
GEORGE
NELLIE
SHRAPNEL
STAN
TELEGRAM
WATCH

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